

- (i) sending a textual message from one client to another;
- (ii) receiving a textual message from one client to another; and
- (iii) identifying which member of a group of clients that a client is a member or prospective member of are currently connected to the computer network, or are probably so connected.

4. (Amended) An instant messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said computer network is the internet or direct electronic links of computers and other electronic devices.

5. (Amended) An instant messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said client types connected to the computer network via the GSM network have SMS capability and are initially connected via an SMSC server to control and manage said SMS therebetween, and wherein said SMSC server is directly connected to said IM server via said computer network.

REMARKS

The presentation of a clean set of claims is permitted under new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(3), effective November 7, 2000. An amended form of claims 3-5 is attached for the Examiner's convenience pursuant to new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii). No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required